My dedication to a remarkable lady,

The Gulf Cattleman's Association owes its very existence to this remarkable lady Noelene Ikin. Through her foresight and vision as CEO of Northern Gulf Resource Management Group she identified the lack of cattle industry representation on an advocacy level. Her belief was that the North could speak for itself and that grassroots information was the key to achieving the necessary changes.

Noeline's unselfish commitment to both the community and industry led to talks with the grazing industry reps in the region and as such the Gulf Grazing Group was formed under the chairmanship of Barry Hughes.

Using the Gulf Grazing Group as a platform Noelene went to work lobbing both State and Federal ministers across the major issues that were impacting the beef industry and the communities that support the cattle industry in the Gulf regions.

Because of this the Gulf Grazing Group grew to the point of outgrowing the initial structure driven by the scale of the issues it was dealing with.

Noelene was adamant that this group had to maintain the momentum and successes that the Grazing Group had achieved, and so the Gulf Cattleman's Association was formed.

Noeline's role in the newly formed Association was primarily Chief Advisor to all things political, but just as important, mentor to all who were involved in the Association.

The Gulf Cattleman's Association is just one of the many legacies that this truly remarkable lady has left across the Gulf region.

Her prowess for progression, her drive to deliver sustainable pathways for the greater gulf region has become a cornerstone for the organisation as the Gulf Cattleman's Association moves forward.

Barry recalls that no matter who Noeline was dealing with from the Federal Minister for Agriculture Barnaby Joyce to participants in a small rural meeting she was held in high regard and her beliefs, passion, and vision were equally highly respected.

Her family devotion as well as her love for horses were pivotal in the way Noeline was able to connect to people and she was often seen with Radar and swag in the horse float heading out to lend a hand with chopper mustering on a Gulf cattle station.

This was the life she loved.

I wrote this yesterday as word came thru.

In memory of Noeline.

May the rain never wash

Your tracks from the trail

May the memories of you

Never ever fail

May the horses you love

Carry you to above

Now that your saddle

Has gone from the rail.

(Written by Barry Hughes)